

ANNUAL REPORT

TO

THE MEMBERS OF SHORT HEATH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL


BY

JOHN T. HARTILL,

L.R.C.P.L., M.R.C.S. Eng., J.P.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

January 23rd, 1905.



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Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1904.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In this, my 34th Annual Report, I have pleasure in stating that the health of the District was remarkably good during ten months of the year, and that at no time was sickness exceptionally prevalent for more than a few consecutive days.

The inhabitants consist chiefly of Miners and Lock and Key Makers, who breathe a bracing air, at an altitude of several hundred feet above the sea level. The general fall of the land is towards the South East, and the adjacent districts are high and open for a considerable distance round. The Miners work chiefly in the Essington portion of the Cannock Rural District, and in the main have settled there within the last 15 or 20 years. Most of the Lock and Key Makers were born there, and are descendants of small master men engaged in the same trades, when all locks and keys were made by hand. Trade amongst all classes was bad throughout the year. Gas mains have been recently laid, and already several workshops have become factories, using small gas engines. It is probable that a few years hence, very few locks will be made by hand in the district. The tendency will therefore be to compel occupiers of small workshops to become journeymen smiths, unless they are quick to apply gas-power to production, to enable competition on something approaching terms of equality with manufacturers in neighbouring towns. This is a subject well worth consideration by those who have the welfare of the community at heart. The supply of food was good and plentiful.

The Birth and Death Rates, calculated on an estimated population of 3,749, were respectively 37·6 and 10·9 ; or including those who died in public institutions outside the district, of 11·7 per thousand

per year. The averages in the district in the ten preceding years were respectively 41·8 and 15·9. The Death Rate from preventable diseases was 0·2 per thousand per year, as compared with an average of 2·7 in the ten preceding years.

I did not know until this year, that the population, as ascertained at the Census of 1901, did not include residents in the Union House, who had entered there from the district. The data upon which I have estimated the population and death rate is obtained by multiplying the number of houses in the district by 4·8, which was the average number per house at the last two Censuses, and adding on 25 residents in the Union House. The result is practically identical with the house to house inspection records for the year. The number 25 was obtained by assuming the whole of the Union to contribute to the population of the Union House in equal proportions, as the nearest approach to accuracy it is possible to obtain—the population of the Union at the Census of 1901 being 154,591—of Short Heath, 3,531, and of the Union House, 1,098.

The point of interest in the Death Rate from all causes is, that it is the lowest recorded since the District was formed; and in the Zymotic Death Rate that it was only once lower, namely, in 1885. In accordance with the terms of the preceding paragraph, in Table 1 appended hereto, I have revised the calculations for the years 1902 and 1903.

The deaths of children under a year old per 1,000 births registered were 99·2, as compared with an average of 143·6 in the ten preceding years. This rate—the lowest since 1895—is decidedly satisfactory.

Ten cases of Infectious Disease were certified, viz. :—Diphtheria, 1; Erysipelas, 5; and Scarlet Fever, 4. Of other Contagious or Infectious Diseases there came to my knowledge—Chicken Pox, 9; Diarrhœa, 6; Measles, 30; Mumps, 3; Whooping Cough, 2; and Influenza, 3. Of these, one died from Membranous Croup (certified as Diphtheria), but nothing was found on the premises likely to have originated the disease.

Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever were on the outskirts of the District, and the fourth case was that of a domestic servant, who came home ill from a neighbouring town, from a house in which there was Diphtheria. All the cases were satisfactorily isolated, and the houses were disinfected after recovery.

My last Annual Report traced the origin and progress of a very severe epidemic of Measles, and when the New Year began, the Infant Department of Holy Trinity Schools had been closed by order of the Council for a period of six weeks, of which nearly a month had not expired. Most of the 30 cases were among children who attended those Schools, and it was not until February that the epidemic was over ; 229 cases having been reported in about four months. I have nothing to add on this subject to that report, except that the later cases were milder than the earlier, in type.

It is noteworthy that there was no Infantile Diarrhoea, and that there was not a single case of Enteric Fever.

The Joint Small Pox Hospital Board, which was legally constituted in 1903, and in which Short Heath participates, is about to build a Hospital for the reception of cases of Small Pox—possibly by this time the work has commenced. In the meantime, if any cases should occur, isolation at the Rowley Regis Hospital will be provided.

The Inspector of Nuisances has made his usual house to house inspection. His book shows 776 houses, of which 21 were built in 1904, with 1,833 bed-rooms, 485 sanitary conveniences, and 357 ashpits—of which 229 are covered and 128 not covered. The proportion of covered to uncovered ashpits still increases—a step in the right direction—and I again advise the Council to get every ashpit made water-tight, above and below, as quickly as possible ; for every ashpit which contains water is a nuisance, capable of abatement. Two houses, deemed unfit for habitation, were voluntarily closed after Informal Notice ; two others were demolished ; and three were rendered fit for occupation. The system of excrement removal is by contract, and the sanitary conveniences are chiefly privy cess-pits.

The Contractor does his work to the satisfaction of the Council, removes the excrement as required, but not at fixed intervals, to agricultural land, chiefly on the outskirts of the district. The Surveyor supervises the erection of new houses. At the end of the year, there were about 20 void houses. Nineteen cases of over-crowding were discovered and abated. The void houses, and the tendency to over-crowding, were probably mainly due to the state of trade. The ashpits and sanitary conveniences are reported to be in good order, and the 81 pigsties, the stables, and cowsheds, have been kept fairly clean. Complaints have been received of recurrent nuisances from the keeping of pigs at the rear of Ivy Cottage, New Invention. I understand the pigsties are kept in fair order, but they are respectively 45 and 50 feet from any house, whilst the bye-laws fix the limit at 60 feet. It is probable they are nearer still to Mr. Flemming's workshop, but exact particulars are not to hand just now. The bake-houses, slaughter-houses, dairies, cowsheds, and milk shops were regularly inspected, and maintained in cleanly condition. The Water supply was good and plentiful. Occasional impurities, at terminals, were rectified by flushing. Drainage satisfactory to the Surveyor, and supply of water from the Corporation mains were secured by prosecution of the owner, to the eight houses known as Brewer's Row, New Invention, a property which has been referred to in many previous reports, including the last Annual Report. Spouting has been fixed to several properties. All Notices issued in 1903 and not complied with, were complied with in 1904 ; and all outstanding Notices in 1904 are of recent date, and will be complied with.

I inspected during the year 53 workshops and 6 factories. As compared with recent years, there was a general deterioration in cleanliness, but verbal requests secured the limewashing and cleansing of 39 workshops and 6 factories. In one case a Formal Notice secured better ventilation, and the occupiers of this and another shop were told—with good results—that their shops must be kept in better order, or the Council might be advised to close them. In three cases requests for limewashing, and in one case for improved ventilation in

a varnish house in 1903, were complied with in 1904. Eight nuisances near to workshops, including the abolition of ashpit and privy, and the removal of pigs, were abated. At Mr. Squire's, New Street, Lane Head, there is a nuisance at times from a wet, open ashpit, near the workshop entrance. It should be made water-tight above and below, and be properly ventilated. At Mr. Smith's factory, Lane Head, there is only one sanitary convenience—but only one woman is employed. The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, fixes separate accommodation for persons of each sex. In my opinion, in this case, under *existing* circumstances, no harm will result—but it is not in my power to say accommodation need not be provided. At date of visit, pigs were kept in cleanly condition about 12 feet from Mr. Edwards' workshop, Clarke's Lane, and there was then no nuisance from them. The bye-laws fix the distance at 60 feet. There is plenty of room farther away in the garden. The workshop is a considerable distance from all but two or three houses. One workshop, now converted into a factory, has been supplied with sanitary accommodation for each sex. One workshop has been demolished. One matter reported by H.M. Inspector under mis-apprehension of the facts, was remedied, and commented on in my last Annual Report. Special rules relating to file cutters are complied with in one case. Form 46 was only posted up in a few of the shops, but there is no over-crowding anywhere. In 4 cases, where I directed special attention to the point, your Inspector informs me the form has since been put up; and he also says that it is now fixed in most of the shops. There are no wet floors, no underground bake-houses, and no domestic workshops, or places other than registered workshops, in which Out-workers work. The Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act is displayed in every shop, where it should be. One list of Out-workers was received. At the end of the year there were 11 factories, 53 occupied, and 5 void workshops; and of these, 34 were used for the manufacture of locks, and 20 for the manufacture of keys. In all workshops in the future for which plans are passed, I advise provision for brick or wood floors. There is prejudice against them;

but they can be kept more free from dust than ash floors, and they are more healthy. In 7 cases I advised the occupiers to consider the matter. The Surveyor reports, that in his opinion, means of egress in case of fire, are in every case sufficient.

As regards sewage disposal, I understand the sewers of Short Heath Village and Lane Head have been joined, by passing under the canal, thus dispensing with the need for one outfall disposal works, and that the Council are negotiating for the purchase of land on which to erect purification tanks—but contract for purchase is not yet signed.

There were 141 births registered, and 14 deaths of children under a year old. There were 166 cases of successful primary vaccination, 1 certificate of insusceptibility of vaccination, and 5 were exempt from vaccination by Magisterial Order. The increase is satisfactory, and due to a large number of old cases—not exceeding $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old—having been vaccinated.

All but one of the deaths—that of a child a few hours old—were certified by Doctor or Coroner. Three persons, from the District, died in public institutions outside it.

The Tables required by the Local Government Board, County Council, and the Home Office are in substance appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN T. HARTILL,

M. C. H.

Willenhall,

January 23rd, 1905.

Table 1.

FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

| Year. | Population estimated to middle of each year. | | Births. | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | | | Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District. | Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District. | Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District. | Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District. | |
|------------------------------|--|------|---------|-------|--|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|--|--|--|---|------|
| | 1 | 2 | Number | Rate* | Under 1 Year of Age | | At all Ages. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Number. | Rate per 1000 Births registered | Number. | Rate.* | | | | | |
| 1 | | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1894 | | 2667 | 119 | 44.6 | 17 | 142.8 | 43 | 16.1 | | | | | |
| 1895 | | 2748 | 120 | 47.3 | 8 | 61.5 | 32 | 11.6 | | | 5 | 37 | 13.4 |
| 1896 | | 3373 | 136 | 40.3 | 14 | 102.9 | 46 | 13.6 | | | 0 | 46 | 13.6 |
| 1897 | | 3472 | 153 | 44.0 | 33 | 215.6 | 79 | 22.7 | | | | | |
| 1898 | | 3531 | 156 | 44.1 | 29 | 185.8 | 54 | 15.2 | | | 0 | 54 | 15.2 |
| 1899 | | 3531 | 135 | 38.2 | 28 | 207.4 | 55 | 15.5 | | | 0 | 55 | 15.5 |
| 1900 | | 3531 | 130 | 36.8 | 15 | 115.3 | 72 | 20.3 | | | 0 | 72 | 20.3 |
| 1901 | | 3531 | 135 | 38.2 | 19 | 140.7 | 47 | 13.3 | | | 1 | 48 | 13.5 |
| 1902 | | 3610 | 162 | 41.8 | 21 | 129.6 | 44 | 12.1 | | | 2 | 46 | 12.7 |
| 1903 | | 3649 | 148 | 40.5 | 20 | 135.1 | 69 | 18.9 | | | 4 | 73 | 20.0 |
| Averages for years 1894-1903 | | 3364 | 140 | 41.8 | 20 | 143.6 | 54 | 15.9 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 1904 | | 3749 | 141 | 37.6 | 14 | 99.2 | 41 | 10.9 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 44 | 11.7 |

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water.) } 550 in 1894.
 } 1053 since 1896.

Total population at all ages } 3531
 Number of inhabited houses } 722
 Average number of persons per house } 4.8
 At Census of 1901.

NOTE.—Columns 9, 10, and 11.—There are no Public Institutions *in the District*. Previous to 1895 Short Heath and Willenhall together formed the Township of Willenhall and were governed by two Local Boards. Deaths in the Union House at Wolverhampton of persons from Short Heath were not obtainable separately, but the average would be from one to two each year. I have no information of any deaths except those *in* the District and those as given *in* the Union House, prior to 1901.

The Township of Short Heath now embraces the old Local Board District of Short Heath, plus part of Wednesfield old Local Board District.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the District on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the District on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Table 2.

LOCALITIES.

Not filled up, as there are no recognised divisions
of known population.

Table 3.**Cases of Infectious Disease certified during the Year.**

| | At all Ages | At Ages—Years. | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | Under 1 | 1 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 65 | 65 and upw'ds |
| Diphtheria ... | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| Erysipelas ... | 5 | | | | | 5 | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 4 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Totals ... | 10 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

NOTE.—Temporary arrangements have been made for the reception of Small Pox cases, in the future, at Rowley Regis Isolation Hospital.

Other cases of Infectious Disease which came to my knowledge.

| | At all Ages | At Ages—Years. | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | Under 1 | 1 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 65 | 65 and upw'ds |
| Chicken Pox ... | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| Diarrhoea | 6 | | | | 1 | 5 | |
| Measles | 30 | 2 | 23 | 4 | 1 | | |
| Mumps | 3 | | | 3 | | | |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | | | 2 | | | |
| Influenza | 3 | | | | | 3 | |
| Totals ... | 53 | 3 | 25 | 15 | 2 | 8 | 0 |

Table 4.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

| Causes of Death. | Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages. | | | | | | | Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District. |
|--|---|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| | All Ages | Under 1 year | 1 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 65 | 65 and upwards. | |
| Small-pox | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping-cough | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria and membranous croup | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| Croup | | | | | | | | |
| Fever { Typhus | | | | | | | | |
| { Enteric | | | | | | | | |
| { Other continued | | | | | | | | |
| Epidemic Influenza | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | | | | | | | | |
| Plague | | | | | | | | |
| Diarrhœa | | | | | | | | |
| Enteritis | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever... .. | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | | | | | | | | |
| Other Septic Diseases | | | | | | | | |
| Phthisis | 2 | | | | | 2 | | |
| Other Tubercular Diseases | | | | | | | | |
| Cancer, malignant disease | | | | | | | | |
| Bronchitis | 6 | 3 | | | | 2 | 1 | |
| Pneumonia | 6 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | | |
| Pleurisy | | | | | | | | |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Alcoholism | | | | | | | | |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | | | | | | | | |
| Venereal Diseases | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 3 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Diseases and Accidents of Parturition | 1 | | | | | 1 | | |
| Heart Diseases | 6 | | | | | 4 | 2 | |
| Accidents... .. | | | | | | | | |
| Suicides | | | | | | | | |
| All other causes | 18 | 6 | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 6 | |
| All causes | 44 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 10 | 0 |

Table 5.**SUMMARY OF WORK BY INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.**

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Houses inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 776 |
| Schools ,, | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Workshops and Factories inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Dairies inspected, quarterly | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Cowsheds ,, ,, | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Slaughter-houses inspected quarterly | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Ashpits and Privies inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 842 |
| Pigsties inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 81 |
| Informal Notices to remedy foul condition of Dwelling Houses | | | | | | | |
| and their appurtenances | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Formal Notices to remedy structural defects in Dwelling | | | | | | | |
| Houses and their appurtenances | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Informal Notices to remedy structural defects in Dwelling | | | | | | | |
| Houses and their appurtenances | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 |
| Formal Notices to abate overcrowding | | | | | | | |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Informal Notices to abate overcrowding | | | | | | | |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Informal Notices concerning Houses unfit for Habitation | | | | | | | |
| Houses demolished after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Houses demolished after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Houses rendered fit for habitation after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Houses closed after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Formal Notices to abate nuisances from Ashpits and Privies | | | | | | | |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Abatements after Notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

(Continued on next page)

TABLE 5 (continued).

| | |
|--|----|
| Informal Notices to abate nuisances from Ashpits and Privies | 31 |
| Abatements after Notice | 31 |
| Formal Notices to remedy faults in House Drainage ... | 17 |
| Abatements after Notice | 17 |
| Informal Notices to remedy faults in House Drainage ... | 64 |
| Abatements after Notice | 64 |
| Formal Notices to abate Nuisances from Pigsties | 3 |
| Abatements after Notice | 3 |
| Informal Notices to abate nuisances from Pigsties | 9 |
| Abatements after Notice | 8 |
| Informal Notices to remedy defective Water Supply ... | 5 |
| Remedies after Notice | 5 |
| Informal Notices to limewash and cleanse Workshops and Factories | 45 |
| Notices complied with | 45 |
| Formal Notice to provide efficient Ventilation in Workshop ... | 1 |
| Provided after Notice | 1 |
| Informal Notices to abate other nuisances in or near Workshops | 6 |
| Abatements after Notice | 6 |
| Formal Notices to affix Spouting to Dwelling Houses ... | 11 |
| Fixtures after Notice | 11 |
| Informal Notices to affix Spouting to Dwelling Houses ... | 6 |
| Fixtures after Notice | 6 |
| Informal Notices to abate other Nuisances | 8 |
| Abatements after Notice | 8 |
| Formal Notices in 1903, concerning defective Water Supply, complied with in 1904 | 8 |
| Other Informal Notices in 1903, complied with in 1904 ... | 7 |
| Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease | 4 |
| Prosecution | 1 |

Table 6.

Abstract of Particulars asked for by Home Office.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|----|---------|-----|---|
| Factories-- Inspections | ... | 13 | Notices | ... | 0 |
|-------------------------|-----|----|---------|-----|---|

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|---|
| Workshops | ,, | ... | ... | 112 | ,, | ... | 2 |
|-----------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|---|

Defects found :

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|----|----------|----|
| Want of Cleanliness | ... | 48 | Remedied | 48 |
|---------------------|-----|----|----------|----|

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|---|----|-----|---|
| Insufficient Ventilation | ... | 1 | ,, | ... | 1 |
|--------------------------|-----|---|----|-----|---|

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---|----|-----|---|
| Other Nuisances | ... | ... | 8 | ,, | ... | 6 |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---|----|-----|---|

Sanitary Accommodation not

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---|----|-----|---|
| separate for sexes | ... | 2 | ,, | ... | 1 |
|--------------------|-----|---|----|-----|---|

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|---|----|-----|---|
| Other offences | ... | ... | 5 | ,, | ... | 5 |
|----------------|-----|-----|---|----|-----|---|

Other Matters :

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Notified by H.M. Inspector | 1 | Report to H.M.I—1. |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|

Homework :

List received—1. Outworkers—3 in registered workshop.

Workshops on Register at end of 1904—58. Occupied—53.

Chief Trades therein :

| | | |
|------------------|-----|----|
| Lock Manufacture | ... | 28 |
|------------------|-----|----|

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|-----|----|
| Key | ,, | ... | ... | 17 |
|-----|----|-----|-----|----|

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|---|
| Bake-houses | ... | ... | 2 |
|-------------|-----|-----|---|

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Factories in District | ... | ... | 11 |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----|

Trades therein :

| | | |
|------------------|-----|---|
| Lock Manufacture | ... | 6 |
|------------------|-----|---|

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|-----|---|
| Key | ,, | ... | ... | 3 |
|-----|----|-----|-----|---|

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|-----|---|
| Gas | ,, | ... | ... | 1 |
|-----|----|-----|-----|---|

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Stamping | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|---|

